

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)**  
**Monthly Newsletter for the Durham Community**  
**August 2015**

**North Carolina Gun Law: Selling or Giving Weapons to Minors (N.C.G.S. 14-315)**

With limited exceptions, it is against the law to sell, offer to sell, give, or in any way transfer a handgun to a minor. In addition to this crime being a Class H felony (punishable by thirty months in prison), the individual charged with the crime will forfeit the proceeds of any sale made in the crime.

*Pocket-size cards detailing many North Carolina firearm statutes are available to the public by Project Safe Neighborhoods. Please call 560-4438 x29230 to request cards for your community or organization.*

**PSN Spotlight Initiative: A Community Response**

The Community Response to Violent Acts is a strategy utilized for violent incidents or any crimes likely to have a retaliation effect among those involved. The Response consists of a door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhood where the crime occurred. Conducted by the Durham Police Department, partnering agencies and organizations, and concerned citizens, the canvass is designed to have a four-fold effect:

- a. To develop investigative leads in the case;
- b. To provide information to the community about the violent act and to reassure them that law enforcement is doing everything it can to solve the case and protect the citizens;
- c. To support the involved community in its efforts to recover from the violent act;
- d. To visibly demonstrate the Project Safe Neighborhoods partnership by having law enforcement and community representatives conducting the Response.

Partners are notified via e-mail of the time, date, location, and reason for a Response when one has been scheduled. Participants convene at the Response site, where the Response coordinator conducts a short briefing and responders sign in. Participants are divided into teams; each team consisting of both community members and law enforcement officers. The teams disperse to assigned sections of the neighborhood, handing out flyers door-to-door and talking with residents about the violent incident that precipitated the Response, as well as any other concerns the residents may have. When the canvass is complete, responders reconvene, participate in a short debriefing (if necessary), and sign out. Most Responses last no more than thirty to forty-five minutes.

**ONE SIMPLE THING YOU CAN DO to Prevent Gun Crime in Durham: *Get to know your neighbors.***

This is the most important strategy for keeping your neighborhood a safe place to live. You don't have to be nosy but become familiar with their schedules. Know what kind of cars they drive. Alert one another when you'll be out of town or when you expect a strange car to be parked in front of your home. This simple strategy can keep your family safe and your possessions secure.

**Pointers for Parents: Five Important Lessons to Teach Your Children**

1. Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Don't stand around and form an audience when others are arguing.
2. Learn safe routes for walking in the neighborhood, and know good places to seek help. Know how to contact your parents in the event of an emergency.

3. Learn to work out your problems without fighting. If you're feeling angry toward someone, talk it out, walk away, stick with friends, or speak with a trusted adult. Try to think of some new ways to settle your problems without violence.
4. If you find a gun – stop, don't touch the gun, get away, and tell a grown-up you trust.
5. Report any crimes or suspicious activities to police, school authorities, and parents.

**PSN in Your Neighborhood**

August 4: National Night Out

August 5: McDougald Terrace